



CLASSIC

STAR WARS

Classic

CLASSIC
STAR WARS
19

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN



ARCHIE GOODWIN • AL WILLIAMSON



Robert Boyd, Jennie Bricker, Debbie Byrd,
Chris Chalenor, Bob Cooper, Michael Eury,
Brian Gogolin, Evelyn Harris, Merilee Hord,
Peet Janes, Diane Kintrea-Wassman, Edward
Martin III, Diana Schutz, Monty Sheldon,
Suzanne Taylor, Dan Thorsland, Chris
Warner, Ryder Windham • editorial staff

J.C. Allard, Leesa Anderson, Tiffany Ayers,
Geoffrey Byrd, David Chipps, Dan Fournier,
Scott Fuentes, Adam Gallardo, Karl
Gillespie, Teena Gores, Cary Grazzini,
Heather Hale, John Hanon III, Stuart Hiner,
Matt Hollingsworth, Jim Johns, April
Johnson, Nicholas Kern, Arthur Knight,
Debra Koch, Todd McAllister, Perry
McNamee, David Nestelle, Sara Nethercut,
Brian Neubauer, Cara Niece, Lawrence
Pierce, Cary Porter, Rich Powers,
Professoruss, Thom Rabie, Pamela Rambo,
Leticia Rodriguez, James Sinclair, Lisa
Stamp, David Stewart, Shawn Sturos,
Kai Thomasian, Scott Tice, Sean Tierney,
Tim Tran, Mark Vick • production staff

Cheryl Cink, Michael Cox, John Dennett,
Chuck Matthews III, David Weigel,
Kris Young • sales & marketing staff

Jeff Betz, Dave Broughton, Charissa Butler,
Amy Dvorak, Lorrie Flaschner, Jeff Gillis,
Dale LaFountain, Sue Ostermann, Mike
Van Horn, Darlene Vogel • operations staff

Kimberly Chandler, Kim Haines, Rebecca
Rautenberg, Jeff Sternoff • accounting staff

Classic Star Wars #19, May 1994.
Published monthly by Dark Horse
Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main Street,
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Star
Wars® © 1994 Lucasfilm Ltd. All
rights reserved. Used under
authorization. Text and illustrations
for Classic Star Wars® are © 1994
Lucasfilm Ltd. All other material,
unless otherwise specified, is © 1994
by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights
reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced by any means
without written permission from
Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between
any of the names, characters,
persons, and/or institutions in this
publication and those of any
preexisting person or institution is
intended, and any similarity that
may exist is purely coincidental.
Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark
Horse logo are registered trademarks
of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
PRINTED IN CANADA.

Archie Goodwin
Writer

Al Williamson
Artist

Al Williamson
Art Retouch

**Matthew
Hollingsworth**
Colorist

George Evans
Cover Artist

**Matthew
Hollingsworth**
Cover Colorist

Bob Cooper
Editor



Mike Richardson
publisher

Neil Hankerson
executive vice president

David Scroggy
vice president of publishing

Lou Bank
vice president of sales & marketing

Andy Karabatsos
vice president of finance

Mark Anderson
general counsel

Tod Borleske
director of operations

Chris Creviston
director of accounting

Barbara Kesel
managing editor

Jerry Prosser
editorial coordinator

Randy Stradley
creative director

Bob Schreck
special projects director

Randy Bowen
product development director

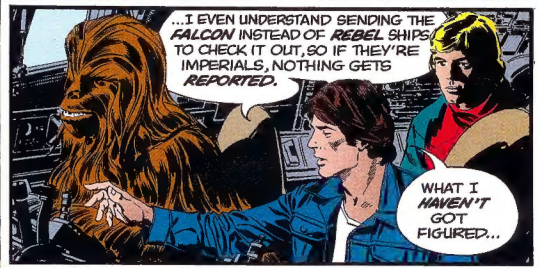
WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

Luke continues to hunt for the missing mind witch, S'ybl, not yet realizing what she really is, while being pursued by what appears to be the Night Beast. He falls from a cliff and plummets to the ground, injured. Elsewhere, Artoo and Threepio take off to search for their master, attempting to communicate one more time with Luke via comlink. Luke realizes that S'ybl has stolen his comlink to lure the other Rebels to her after draining the Force, as well as the remaining life energy, from Luke. Luke calls on the Force to hold off S'ybl until Han and Chewie arrive. S'ybl exerts the last of her psychic forces to tumble the ruins around Luke, exhausting all her energy — and apparently her life — in the process. After the confrontation with the mind witch, the Rebel heroes finally arrive at their new base on Hoth, where they're greeted rather rudely by Princess Leia, who reveals that the *Millennium Falcon* was followed to Hoth by a strange ship. So Han, Luke, and Chewie hop back into the *Falcon* to lead the strange ship away from Hoth.



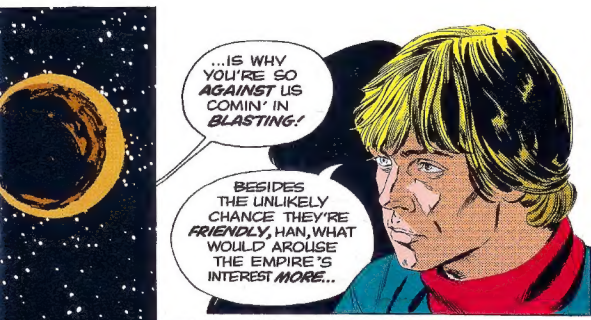


ALL RIGHT, KID... I'M
CALM. I CAN UNDERSTAND
HOW LEIA MIGHT BE
UPSET THAT THIS STRANGE
SHIP THREATENS KEEPING
THE ALLIANCE'S NEW
BASE **SECRET...**



...I EVEN UNDERSTAND SENDING THE
FALCON INSTEAD OF **REBEL SHIPS**
TO CHECK IT OUT, SO IF THEY'RE
IMPERIALS, NOTHING GETS
REPORTED.

WHAT I
HAVEN'T
GOT
FIGURED...



...IS WHY
YOU'RE SO
AGAINST US
COMIN' IN
BLASTING!

BESIDES
THE UNLIKELY
CHANCE THEY'RE
FRIENDLY, HAN, WHAT
WOULD AROUSE
THE EMPIRE'S
INTEREST *MORE*...

...THAN HAVING A
SPYCRAFT SUDDENLY
DISAPPEAR?

I WAS **AFRAID**
YOU HAD A GOOD
ANSWER... **NOW**
WHAT DO WE
DO?!



As the **MILLENNIUM FALCON**
approaches the ship that has
followed it toward
Hoth...

WELL, WE'VE
RULED OUT THAT
THEY'RE **FRIENDLY**,
LUKE...

...ARE
YOU **SURE**
WE CAN'T
BLOW 'EM
AWAY?

IF THEY'RE IMPERIAL
SPIES, THAT WOULD
ALERT THE EMPIRE
THAT **SOMETHING'S**
WRONG
IN THIS
SYSTEM...



...AND START AN INVESTIGATION THAT WOULD REVEAL OUR **BASE!** WE'VE GOT TO BE **CLEVER** ABOUT THIS, HAN... WE'VE GOT TO... LET THEM **CAPTURE US!**

WHAT?!



LUKE, YOU'RE A **FRIEND**... BUT YOU'RE TRYING MY **PATIENCE!** I'M A **PIRATE**, A **SMUGGLER**... TO WILLINGLY **SURRENDER** MY SHIP...

...VIOLATES EVERYTHING I **STAND FOR!**



VARARRWWK!

THAT WAS **DIFFERENT**, CHEWIE... THERE WAS **MONEY** INVOLVED!



HAN, THE ENTIRE **REBELLION'S** INVOLVED IF THE LOCATION OF OUR **BASE** IS REVEALED! YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT...

...PLEASE!



MAYBE WE CAN'T **FIGHT** THESE GUYS, LUKE... BUT I'D RATHER GIVE 'EM A GOOD **CHASE** THAN **SURRENDER!**

HAN, EVEN IF YOU **LOSE** THEM...



...WE'VE AROUSED THEIR **CURIOSITY!** THE **BEST** WAY TO PROTECT OUR **BASE** ON **HOTH**... IS TO CONVINCE THEM WE'VE SOME **OTHER** REASON FOR BEING HERE!

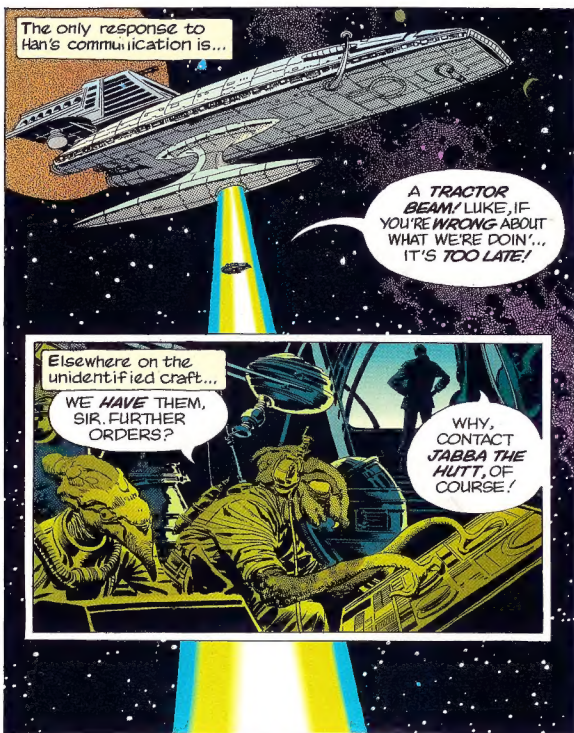




AND WE'VE GOT TO **GIVE UP** TO DO THAT? OKAY, KID... I HOPE THEY'LL TAKE US IN **ONE** PIECE.



HEY! THIS IS THE **MILLENNIUM FALCON**! DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GUYS ARE BLASTIN' A PEACEFUL **FREIGHTER**, BUT SINCE WE'RE IN NO SHAPE TO **FIGHT**, HOW 'BOUT LETTIN' US **TALK**?



The only response to Han's communication is...

A **TRACTOR BEAM**! LUKE, IF YOU'RE **WRONG** ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOIN'... IT'S **TOO LATE**!

Elsewhere on the unidentified craft...

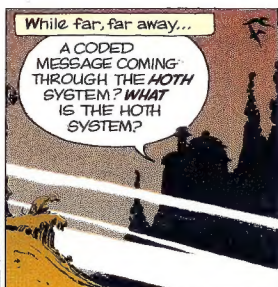
WE **HAVE** THEM, SIR. FURTHER ORDERS?

WHY, CONTACT **JABBA THE HUTT**, OF COURSE!



NAUAAARGH!

YEAH / I FEEL THE SAME WAY, CHEWIE / BAD ENOUGH TO BE *CAUGHT*... WORSE NOT KNOWING BY *WHO*!



While far, far away...

A CODED MESSAGE COMING THROUGH THE *HOTH* SYSTEM? *WHAT* IS THE *HOTH* SYSTEM?



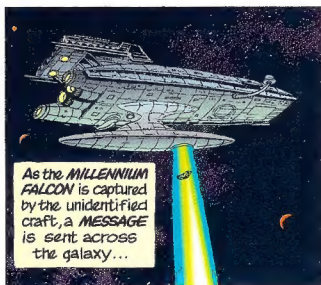
To avoid a one-sided battle, Han agrees to Luke's plan... *SURRENDER*!

KID, THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO KEEP THESE GUYS FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR BASE ON *HOTH*?

IT'S *PERFECT*! WE JUST CONVINCE THEM WE'RE *SPACE HUNTERS* OR SOMETHING! WE CALM ANY SUSPICIONS WHETHER THEY'RE IMPERIAL SPIES OR NOT... EVERYONE GOES AWAY *HAPPY*!

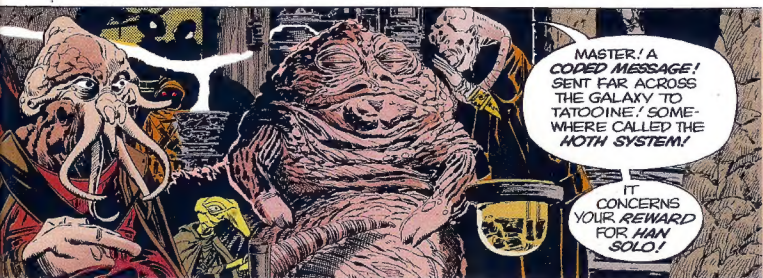
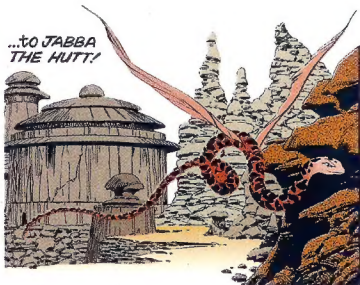
WHY IS IT I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S GONNA BE THAT *SIMPLE*!





As the **MILLENNIUM FALCON** is captured by the unidentified craft, a **MESSAGE** is sent across the galaxy...

...to **JABBA THE HUTT!**



MASTER! A **CODED MESSAGE!** SENT FAR ACROSS THE GALAXY TO **TATOOINE!** SOMEWHERE CALLED THE **HOTH SYSTEM!**

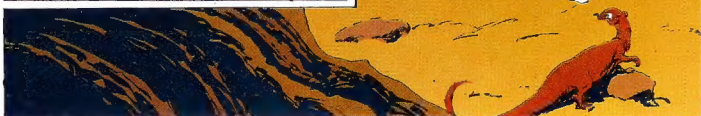
IT CONCERNS YOUR **REWARD** FOR **HAN SOLO!**

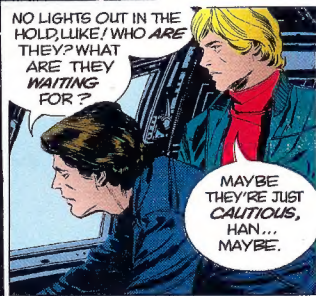
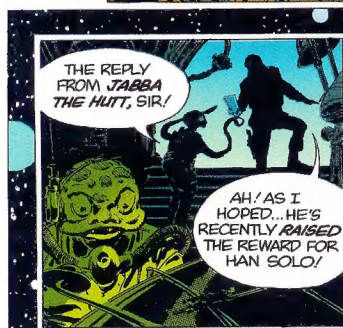
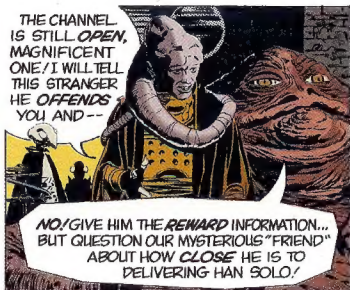
SOMEONE IN THE **HOTH SYSTEM** HAS CAPTURED **SOLO?** WHERE IS THIS SYSTEM?

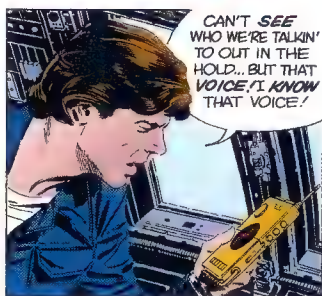
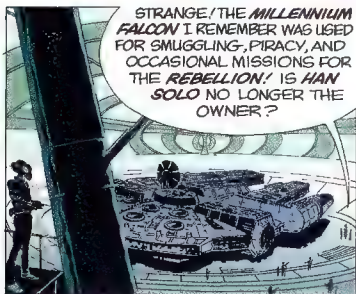
ON NO STANDARD CHARTS, MIGHTY **JABBA...**

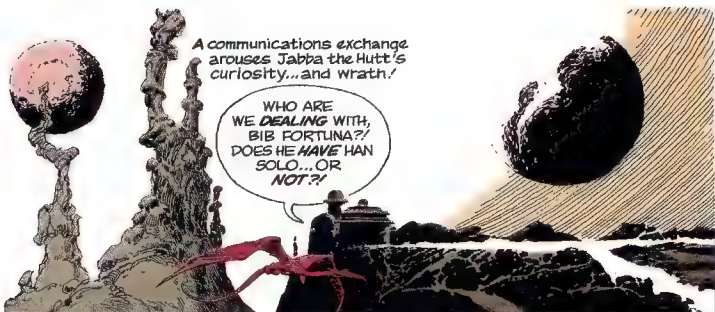


...AND THE MESSAGE WAS **CODED** SO IT COULD NOT BE TRACED TO ITS POINT OF ORIGIN! BUT THE SENDER DOES NOT SAY HE HAS **SOLO...**









A communications exchange arouses Jabba the Hutt's curiosity...and wrath!

WHO ARE WE DEALING WITH, BIB FORTUNA?! DOES HE HAVE HAN SOLO...OR NOT?!



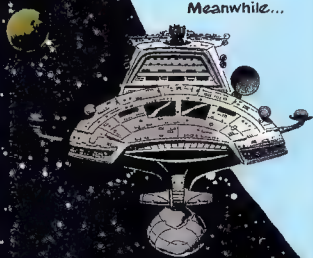
HE REMAINED VAGUE, O GREAT ONE, BUT EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT YOU'VE RECENTLY RAISED THE REWARD.

I REWARD RESULTS... NOT COY HINTS! HOWEVER OBSCURE THIS HOTH SYSTEM MAY BE...

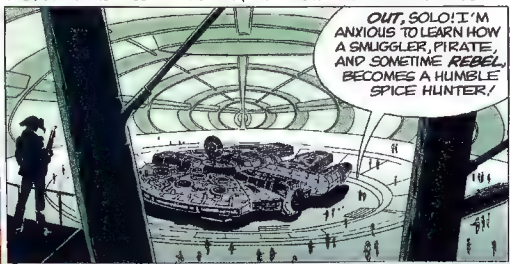


...IF ONE ROGUE CAN FIND HIS WAY THERE, SO MAY ANOTHER! ANOTHER MORE WILLING TO DELIVER SOLO'S HIDE WITHOUT WASTING MY TIME!

Meanwhile...



...aboard the vessel which captured the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*...



OUT, SOLO! I'M ANXIOUS TO LEARN HOW A SMUGGLER, PIRATE, AND SOMETIME *REBEL*, BECOMES A HUMBLE SPICE HUNTER!

LUKE... WE NEED A *NEW PLAN!* WHOEVER'S CAPTURED US *KNOWS* ME!

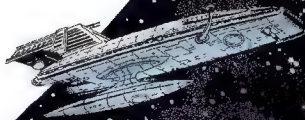


I DON'T THINK WE HAVE *TIME*, HAN!



YEAH! THINGS ARE GETTIN' TOO *COMPLICATED* ANYWAY!! LOWER THE RAMP, CHEWIE... WE'LL COME OUT *FIGHTIN'!*





HAN, IF OUR CAPTORS *WANTED* TO KILL US... THEY'VE HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES! LET'S FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE *FACING*...

...WE CAN *ALWAYS* MAKE A DEATH STAND!

TRUE, KID. AN' ONCE YOU *START* ONE... THEY'RE TOUGH TO *UNDO*! OKAY...



...HAVE CHEWIE HANG BACK ON THE *FALCON* WHILE WE SEE WHO--

YOU!
YOU?!



WELCOME, MY DEAR SOLO! I'D BEGUN TO THINK YOU'D *NEVER* COME OUT!

RASKAR! ARE YOU BEHIND THIS MESS?!



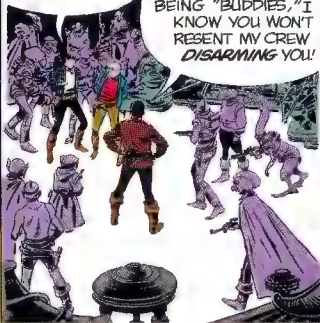
WE THOUGHT WE'D BEEN CAPTURED BY IMPERIAL SPIES OR PIRATES OR SOMETHIN'!

CHEWIE AN' I *KNOW* THIS GUY, LUKE! A WHILE BACK WE BUTTED HEADS...



...BUT WOUND UP *BUDDIES*!

AH! I'D *HOPED* YOU STILL FEEL THAT WAY! BEING "BUDDIES," I KNOW YOU WON'T RESENT MY CREW *DISARMING* YOU!



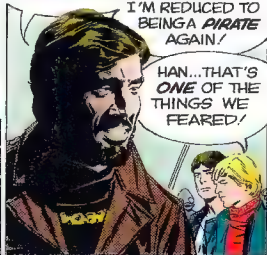
RASKAR, WHAT
IS THIS?! I
HELPED YOU THE
LAST TIME WE
MET!

AND I *APPRECIATED*
IT, MY DEAR SOLO! EVEN
SO... MY FORTUNES
TOOK A TURN FOR
THE WORSE!



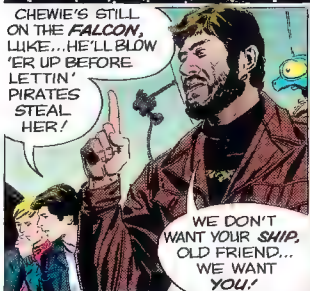
INSTEAD OF RULING A MODEST
PLANET, AS WHEN YOU MET ME...
I'M REDUCED TO
BEING A *PIRATE*
AGAIN!

HAN... THAT'S
ONE OF THE
THINGS WE
FEARED!

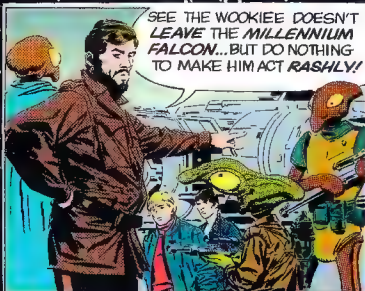


CHEWIE'S STILL
ON THE *FALCON*,
LUKE... HE'LL BLOW
'ER UP BEFORE
LETTIN'
PIRATES
STEAL
HER!

WE DON'T
WANT YOUR *SHIP*,
OLD FRIEND...
WE WANT
YOU!



SEE THE WOOKIEE DOESN'T
LEAVE THE *MILLENNIUM*
FALCON... BUT DO NOTHING
TO MAKE HIM ACT *RASHLY*!!



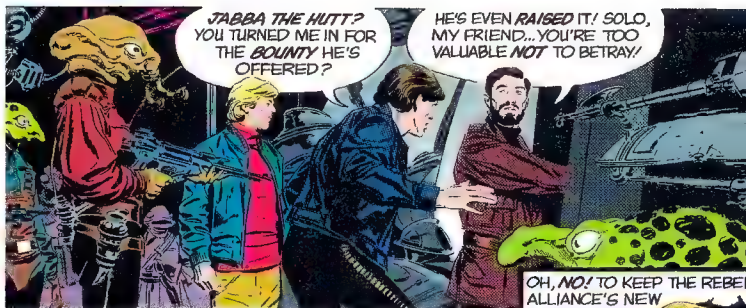
WHAT ABOUT
LUKE AND ME,
RASKAR?



WHY, NOW THAT
YOU'RE DISARMED, MY
DEAR SOLO, WE CAN
ADJOURN TO MY CABIN
FOR DRINKS...

...AND A CIVILIZED
DISCUSSION OF MY
INTENTION TO
SELL YOU TO
JABBA THE
HUTT!





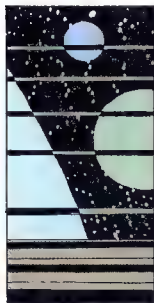
JABBA THE HUTT?
YOU TURNED ME IN FOR
THE BOUNTY HE'S
OFFERED?

HE'S EVEN RAISED IT! SOLO,
MY FRIEND...YOU'RE TOO
VALUABLE **NOT** TO BETRAY!

OH, NO! TO KEEP THE REBEL
ALLIANCE'S NEW
BASE ON HOTH
SECRET...
WHAT HAVE
I DONE
TO HAN?!



WE REMAIN PALS, SOLO... BUT WE'RE
SCOUNDRELS FIRST! I AM A SCOUNDREL LOW
ON FUNDS... AND YOU ARE A SCOUNDREL
JABBA THE HUTT WILL PAY
GENEROUSLY TO ACQUIRE.'

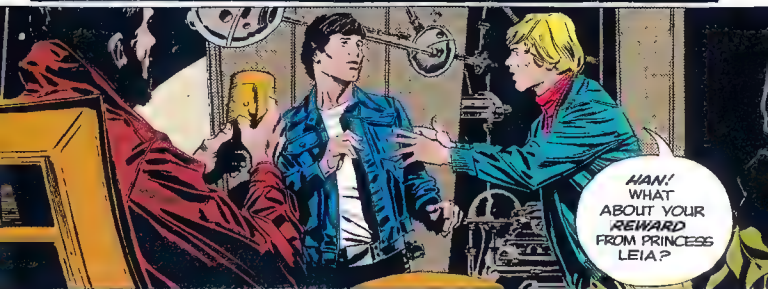


AND YOU'VE
JUST BEEN
CRUISIN' THE
GALAXY HOPIN'
TO BUMP
INTO ME.

LOOKING FOR AN OUT-
OF-THE-WAY BASE TO
BEGIN A **PIRACY**
OPERATION,
ACTUALLY...



...AND SPOTTED *YOUR* SHIP, /
NOW... JABBA'S BOUNTY IS
MINE! UNLESS, PERHAPS... YOU
HAVE A *COUNTERPROPOSAL?*

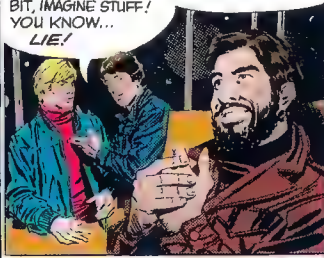


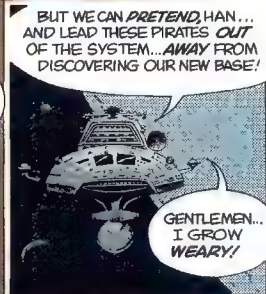
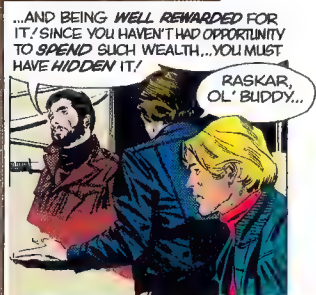
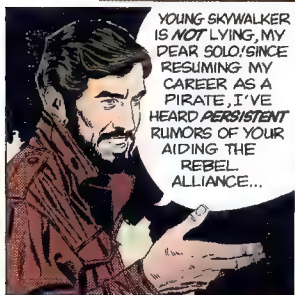
HAN!
WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
REWARD
FROM PRINCESS
LEIA?

KID, ARE YOU *NUTS?* YOU'RE BAITIN'
THIS PIRATE WITH SOMETHIN' I DON'T
HAVE ANYMORE!



IGNORE *SKYWALKER* HERE, RASKAR. /
TENSE SITUATIONS MAKE HIM BABBLE A
BIT, IMAGINE STUFF! /
YOU KNOW...
LIE!







...ORD
MANTELL!

AH, SOLO...
YOU *NEVER*
DISAPPOINT ME!
SINCE YOU ARE *KNOWN*
TO FREQUENT THERE,
IT'S A MOST
BELIEVABLE
HIDING SPOT...

OKAY, OKAY,
RASKAR! LUKE
AN' I HAVE TALKED
THIS OVER... I'LL *TELL*
YOU WHERE I HID
MY REWARD FROM
PRINCESS LEIA!
ON... UH...

...AND, OF
COURSE,
TOTAL
FICTION!

YOU MAY *RECALL*, MY DEAR SOLO... I LIKE TO STAY IN
CONDITION BY *PRACTICING* WITH THIS PRIMITIVE
WEAPON! I'M *QUITE* GOOD!



...BUT
IMPATIENCE
MAKES ME SLIP!
AND WHEN I'VE
WATCHED YOUR
SHIP TRAVEL TO
A FORSAKEN
PLANET IN AN
OBSCURE SYSTEM
PERFECT FOR
HIDING TREASURE...



...ONLY TO BE TOLD
THAT TREASURE'S SUPPOSEDLY
ON ORD MANTELL, I GROW *MOST*
IMPATIENT! ONE MIGHT THINK YOU
WERE TRYING TO *LURE* US *AWAY*
FROM HERE!

The Millennium Falcon is shown in space, flying towards the right. In the background, there is a large orange planet and a smaller blue planet.

SOLO, WE SAW YOUR
MILLENNIUM FALCON ZIP
DOWN TO HOTH'S SURFACE...
THEN COME RUSHING BACK
UP WHEN *WE* MADE OUR
PRESENCE OBVIOUS!

Han Solo, wearing a brown jacket, is pointing at a console. Leia Organa, with her blonde hair, is looking at him. A man in a blue jacket is standing next to her, looking up at the ceiling.

NOW, DOESN'T THAT *APPEAR*
TO BE THE BEHAVIOR OF
SOMEONE WITH
SOMETHING TO
HIDE DOWN
THERE?

A close-up of Leia Organa's face. She has blonde hair and is wearing a red turtleneck under a blue jacket. She has a serious expression.

NO! AFTER
MY TALKING US
IN *DEEPER*...HAG
RASKAR GUESSED
ABOUT THE NEW
REBEL BASE
ANYWAY ?/

Han Solo is shown from the chest up, wearing his brown jacket. He has a beard and is looking slightly to the right.

YOUR *TREASURE* IS ON THAT
INHOSPITABLE ICEBERG-PLANET,
SOLO! WHY *ELSE* WOULD
YOUR SHIP
HAVE BEEN
THERE?

NO MORE
DECEPTIONS...
YOU'RE
TAKING US
THERE!

Soon...

MY FRIEND, ISN'T THIS BETTER
THAN BEING SOLD TO JABBA
THE HUTT?

UNLESS
YOU LEARN THERE'S
NOTHIN' ON HOTH
BUT *SNOW*... AND A LOT
OF *REBELS* WHO CAN'T
AFFORD TO BE
DISCOVERED!

Raskar forces Han back to Hoth...

GAME TIME IS *OVER*,
MY DEAR SOLO...HEAD
STRAIGHT TO YOUR
TREASURE! NO TRICKS!

REMEMBER, MY MEN
ARE COVERING YOUR
WOOKIEE FIRST MATE
AND YOUR YOUNG
CREWMAN, SKYWALKER,
BACK IN THE CABIN!

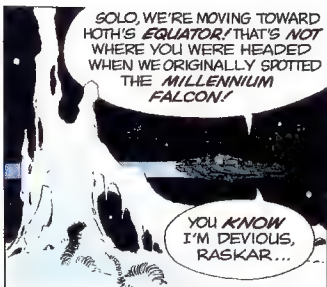
IT'S
FOREMOST
IN MY
MIND...

...ALONG WITH THE FACT THAT I'M RUNNING OUT OF IDEAS TO *STALL* THIS PIRATE FROM DISCOVERING MY "TREASURE" DOESN'T *EXIST!*



SOLO, WE'RE MOVING TOWARD HOTH'S *EQUATOR!* THAT'S *NOT* WHERE YOU WERE HEADED WHEN WE ORIGINALLY SPOTTED THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON!*

YOU *KNOW* I'M DEVIOUS, RASKAR...



...I NEVER HEAD STRAIGHT FOR *ANYTHING!* UNLESS I'M FORCED TO...LIKE *NOW!*

PARTICULARLY WHEN I'M TRYING TO *HIDE* THAT THERE'S A *REBEL BASE* HERE!



IF WE'RE HEADED *STRAIGHT* FOR YOUR TREASURE...WHY IS IT *TAKING* SO LONG? I ADMIRE YOU IMMENSELY, DEAR FELLOW...BUT DON'T *TRUST* YOU FOR AN INSTANT!

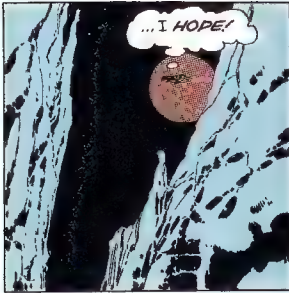


MY PATIENCE IS WEARING *THIN*, SOLO! IF YOU CAN'T PRODUCE THAT TREASURE--AND *SOON*-- THERE'S ALWAYS JABBA THE HUTT'S *BOUNTY!*

RASKAR...

...WHAT'S THE USE IN *HIDIN'* SOMETHIN' UNLESS YOU HIDE IT *WELL?* DON'T WORRY...THE SPOT'S COMIN' UP *SOON*...

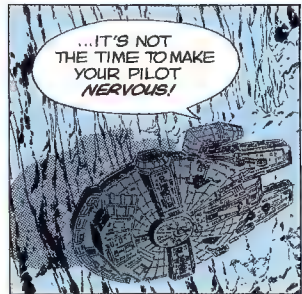


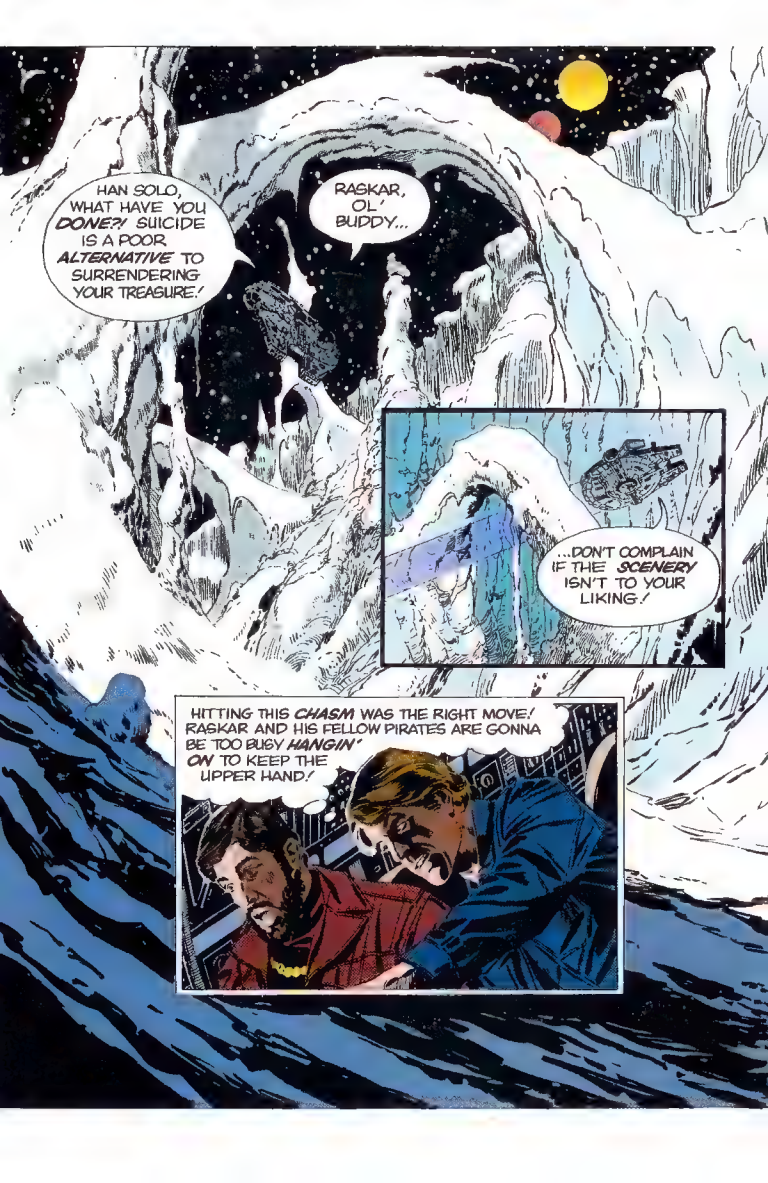


A deep ravine looms on the Hoth landscape...



Han plunges the *MILLENNIUM FALCON* into the ravine's depths!



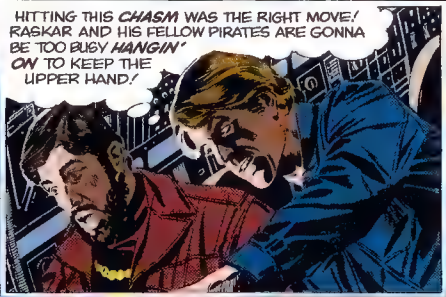


HAN SOLO,
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE? SUICIDE
IS A POOR
ALTERNATIVE TO
SURRENDERING
YOUR TREASURE!

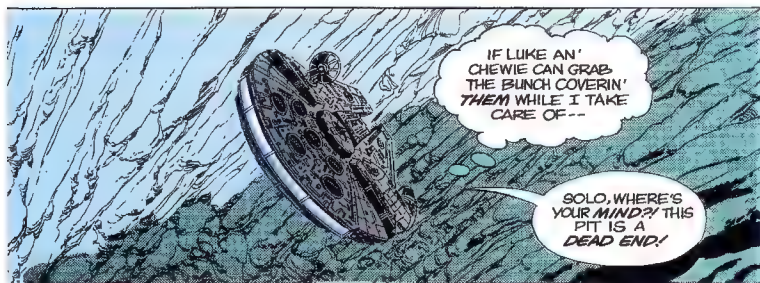
RASKAR,
OL' BUDDY...



...DON'T COMPLAIN
IF THE **SCENERY**
ISN'T TO YOUR
LIKING!



HITTING THIS **CHASM** WAS THE RIGHT MOVE!
RASKAR AND HIS FELLOW PIRATES ARE GONNA
BE TOO BUSY **HANGIN'**
ON TO KEEP THE
UPPER HAND!



IF LUKE AN'
CHEWIE CAN GRAB
THE BUNCH COVERIN'
THEM WHILE I TAKE
CARE OF--

SOLO, WHERE'S
YOUR MIND?! THIS
PIT IS A
DEAD END!

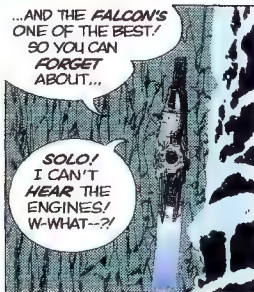
NO SHIP CAN GO
THROUGH THESE
MAD MANEUVERS
WITHOUT RISK
OF A *STALL!*

SHIPS HAVE *IMPROVED*
SINCE YOU *LAST* WENT
PIRATING, RASKAR...



...AND THE *FALCON'S*
ONE OF THE BEST!
SO YOU CAN
FORGET
ABOUT...

SOLO!
I CAN'T
HEAR THE
ENGINES!
W-WHAT--?!



I THINK
MAYBE WE
JUST
STALLED!

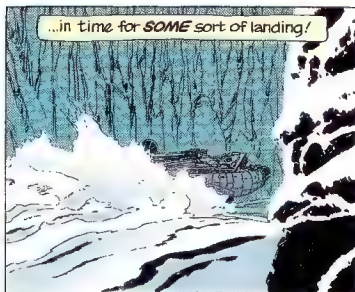
Without power, the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*
hurtles back toward the chasm floor...



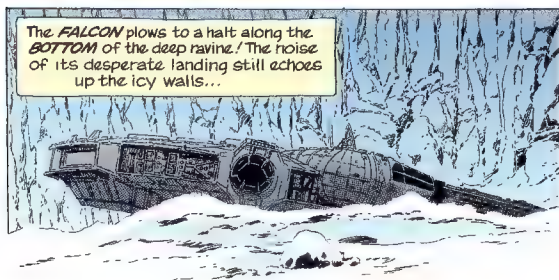
...as Han fights to
reignite her engines
from the stall...



COME ON, BABY!
COME ON!



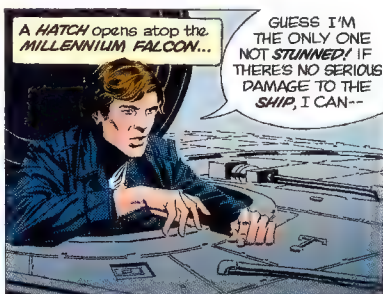
...in time for *SOME* sort of landing!



The *FALCON* plows to a halt along the *BOTTOM* of the deep ravine! The noise of its desperate landing still echoes up the icy walls...

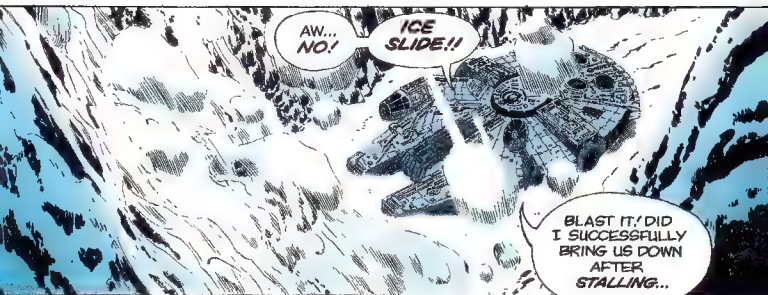


...and the *INTENSITY* of the sound shatters *MORE* than the stillness!



A *HATCH* opens atop the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*...

GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE NOT *STUNNED*! IF THERE'S NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE *SHIP*, I CAN--



AW...
NO!

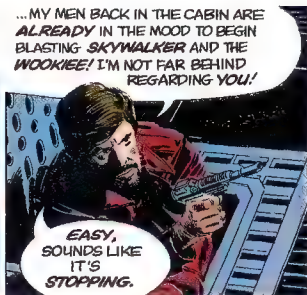
ICE
SLIDE!!

BLAST IT, I DID
I SUCCESSFULLY
BRING US DOWN
AFTER
STALLING...



...JUST
TO GET BURIED
ALIVE?!

I HOPE
NOT,
SOLO...



...MY MEN BACK IN THE CABIN ARE
ALREADY IN THE MOOD TO BEGIN
BLASTING SKYWALKER AND THE
WOOKIEE! I'M NOT FAR BEHIND
REGARDING YOU!

EASY,
SOUNDS LIKE
IT'S
STOPPING.



And...

LUCKY! MOST
OF IT MISSED US!
BUT I'D FORGET USIN'
BLASTERS, OL' BUDDY...
NEXT LOUD NOISE
COULD COLLAPSE
THE WHOLE
RAVINE!

SOLO...WE
CAN'T TAKE OFF
WITHOUT MAKING
NOISE!

YOU'VE **TRAPPED** US IN THIS **RAVINE**, YOU **CORELLIAN CRACKPOT**!

HEY, I DIDN'T WANT TO RETURN TO **HOTH**... YOU **ORDERED** ME!



I ORDERED YOU TO TAKE ME TO YOUR **TREASURE**, SOLO... I'M BEGINNING TO **DOUBT** YOU EVER HAD ONE!

WATCH THAT **KNIFE**!

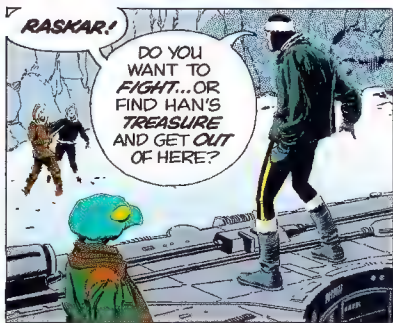


IT'S A **SWORD**, MY EX-FRIEND, AND IT'S ABOUT TO PIERCE YOUR **GIZZARD**!



RASKAR!

DO YOU WANT TO **FIGHT**...OR FIND HAN'S **TREASURE** AND GET OUT OF HERE?



LUKE... YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?

RASKAR'S THUGS LET ME TRY THE **COMMUNICATOR**.



YOUR **PIRATE SHIP**'S NOT SO BIG THAT IT CAN'T COME DOWN INTO THE **ATMOSPHERE** IF **SUMMONED**, RASKAR...AND USE ITS **TRACTOR BEAM** TO PULL US OUT!

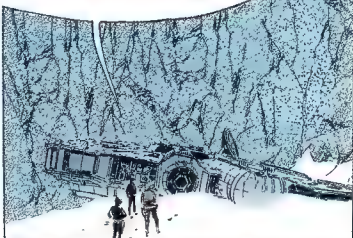


MY DEAR SOLO, THIS LAD HAS MORE **POTENTIAL** THAN I'D **EXPECT** OF SOMEONE TRAINED BY YOU!

THERE'S **STILL** A PROBLEM!



THESE CANYON WALLS INTERFERE WITH **TRANSMISSION**, RASKAR! I COULDN'T RAISE YOUR SHIP!

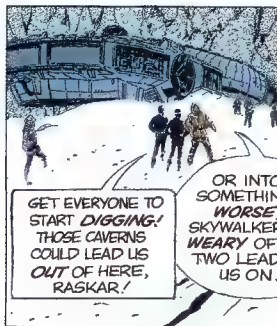
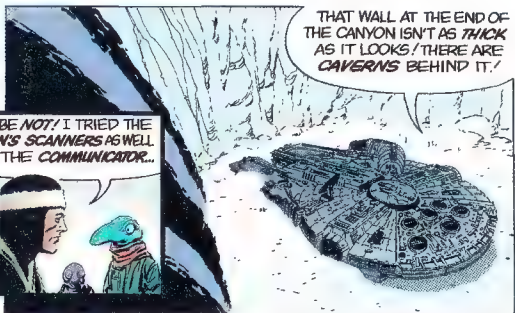


THEN... WE'RE **STILL TRAPPED!**

MAYBE **NOT!** I TRIED THE **FALCON'S** SCANNERS AS WELL AS THE **COMMUNICATOR...**



THAT WALL AT THE END OF THE CANYON ISN'T AS **THICK** AS IT LOOKS! THERE ARE **CAVERNS** BEHIND IT!



GET EVERYONE TO START **DIGGING!** THOSE **CAVERNS** COULD LEAD US **OUT** OF HERE, RASKAR!

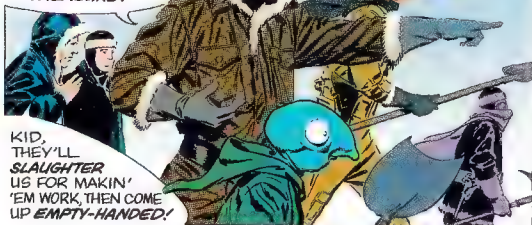
OR INTO SOMETHING **WORSE**, SKYWALKER! I'M **WEARY** OF YOU TWO LEADING US ON!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A **SHARP** PIRATE LEADER / WHERE DO YOU THINK HAN'S **TREASURE** IS ?!

OH, NO! KID... WHAT ARE YOU GETTING US INTO **NOW?**!



EVERYONE...WE'VE
DIGGING TO DO! FOR
ESCAPE...AND FOR
TREASURE!



KID,
THEY'LL
SLAUGHTER
US FOR MAKIN'
'EM WORK, THEN COME
UP EMPTY-HANDED!

DON'T WORRY,
HAN...I'VE GOT
A PLAN!

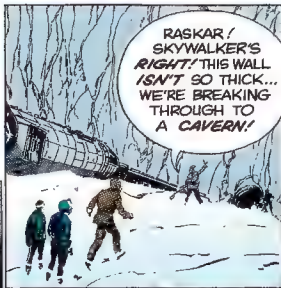
YEAH...THAT'S
HOW ALL THIS
STARTED!



JUST WHAT THE
SCANNERS INDICATED!
IF WE CAN FIND
OUR WAY TO THE
SURFACE--



RASKAR /
SKYWALKER'S
RIGHT! THIS WALL
ISN'T SO THICK...
WE'RE BREAKING
THROUGH TO
A CAVERN!



A COMSET
WILL WORK THERE
WITHOUT THE
INTERFERENCE
IT GETS DOWN
HERE. BUT...



...THIS TUNNEL
DOESN'T LEAD
UP!

THAT DOESN'T
MEAN IT WON'T
EVENTUALLY! AND
ARE YOU FORGETTING
ABOUT THE
TREASURE?

LUKE, WE
CAN'T KEEP
BLUFFING
FOREVER! IT'S--
HEY! W-WHAT...?!

That magic word makes the
pirate and his men push on...

LIGHT
AHEAD.../BUT...
IT CAN'T BE
DAYLIGHT!

SOLO!
YOU'VE BEEN
DOWN HERE
BEFORE... WHAT'S
THAT GLOW
AHEAD?!

WHAT DO WE TELL
HIM, KID? THIS IS
YOUR PLAN!

NOTHING TO BE
CONCERNED
ABOUT, RASKAR...

...IF IT'S WHAT
I DETECTED WITH
THE FALCON'S
SCANNERS... YOU
MAY EVEN BE
PLEASED!

BY THE GREAT
NEBULA! I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!

Don't miss next month's exciting
final issue of *CLASSIC STAR WARS*!

STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

One of the best things about *Classic Star Wars* — and *Star Wars* in general, for that matter — is that there seems to be a large proportion of female fans just as interested in the legends of Luke, Leia, Han, and the rest of the gang, as their male counterparts. This isn't the case with most comic books on the stands these days. I find it refreshing to hear from our female fans — especially when they have as great a story to tell as our first correspondent:

Michelle Slaughter
PO Box 1017
East Ellijay, GA 30539

Like a thousand other *Star Wars* fans who have picked up this magazine, I had to tell you that I absolutely love it. When I first spotted the series fifteen issues ago, I had no idea that I would become so involved with it. With the exception of Mr. Zahn's novels, I haven't been this excited about anything carrying the *Star Wars* name since the movie trilogy itself. As one of the poor, unfortunate souls who never saw the original strips, I thank you for allowing me to experience their magic . . . be it first or second hand.

Star Wars has always been near and dear to my heart. I think that I had a lot to do with the timing. You see, when the movie first premiered in 1977, I was a mere child of five. In fact, it was not until three years later that I saw the first film. A local theater was re-releasing it for the premiere of *Empire*, as I remember it. At that time, my parents were getting a divorce and I had a hard time understanding this. I did not know anyone whose parents had divorced and I felt like something

was terribly wrong with my family. I could not forgive either of them for what had happened and I felt as alone as I possibly could be.

Then I saw *Star Wars*. I was thrilled. I connected with it in a way that, at the time, was indescribable. Here were people fighting against all odds to survive with their dream for a better future . . . and winning. I figured that if they could do it, against a huge empire no less, then I could survive a divorce. I believed that with all my heart, and I looked up to the Star Warriors with respect such as I never knew for any mere "superhero." In fact, until that time, I never had any real heroes. Who did a young girl have to choose from then? The only strong women on TV at that time were Lynda Carter's Wonder Woman and Yvonne Craig's Batgirl (from the)

"This whole *Star Wars* thing has gotten completely out of hand! And it's all your fault!"

.
laughable "Batman" series re-runs of the '60s). There was no choice to choose from other than this. But, then there was Princess Leia, who made me believe that no matter how bad things get, you can survive them if you put your mind to it.

However, Leia was not the only character I connected with. I saw a little of myself in Han and Luke as well. Han was tough, cool, self-confident, and totally merciless . . . at least, that's what he projected. From the time that he returned to

help in the Death Star battle, I knew that he was a little more caring and concerned than he pretended to be.

Luke was more like the "me" inside. He was idealistic, naive, and longing for adventure. He wanted to do something more with his life, but he was never quite sure what that was . . . not until Fate turned his life upside down and gave him no real choice. Only when there was nothing left for him to hang on to. Once he got started, however, he was undaunted by any danger or possibility of failure.

I suppose, looking at it this way, you could say that Luke was me before the divorce, Han was me during the divorce, and Leia was an aspect of me after the divorce. I might not have realized it then, but it was because of these factors that *Star Wars* would stay with me forever.

For some of us, that day back in '77 was a true lifesaver, and there is no doubt that it has altered just about everyone's life in one way or another. If not for George Lucas and his vision . . . well, I personally believe that I might not have made it through those tough years without the help of his films. He gave me a place to escape to. A fantastic place of brave beings and strange aliens; a place where magic and science stood almost side-by-side, and where *nothing* was impossible. Luke, Leia, and Han are old friends whose company I enjoy immensely, and I would not trade a *Star Wars* story for anything in this world . . . or any other for that matter.

Thanks to Dark Horse, I can relive the previous stories,

experience new ones, and even go back to a time before the heroic trio of Han, Luke, and Leia were born — and find out a little bit about the Jedi and some of the Knighthood's greatest heroes. My comics dealer is kind enough to special-order the *SW* lines for me, and I could not be more appreciative. I am eagerly awaiting the next issues of *CSW* and *Tales of the Jedi* (Which, by the way, is utterly fantastic! Will we see more along these lines? It's always interesting to know just where your friends' pasts came from. The possibilities here are virtually endless.), and *Dark Empire II* has been too long in coming. What else can you give me? Keep up the consistently imaginative work you're doing now and this line will fly clear up to the sky. Actually, I think it already has.

Let me thank you one more time for all your hard work and for helping some of us get back in touch with a childhood we had almost forgotten. Let me also say thank you for introducing me — albeit indirectly — to a great friend whom I met through your letter column, Mr. Brendon Wahlberg, a gentleman who has tirelessly provided me with all kinds of information on where to get new copies of anything about *Star Wars* that is worth reading. What started out as a simple request for some old comic strip copies has grown into a mutual friendship for which I could not be more grateful. Brendon has inspired me to write my stories again, better than ever, and has even given me one of his own. We've never met, or even talked on the phone, but our long-distance friendship is more than I could have hoped for. And to think, it might not have been possible if you had not printed his letter. I hope that many more friends meet through the pages of your column and share the kind of friendship that Brendon and I have.

In the words of Jim Lopezzo, "Thank the Force for Dark Horse."

Thanks again for the memories, and for listening to my ramblings. You people have been great. Don't quit this series any time soon. I'm not sure I could handle that (ha, ha!).



Continuing our tradition here at Stellar Scribes of trying to bring you correspondence from all around the world, up next is an impassioned plea and an open letter from a fan in Mexico City to anyone willing to correspond with him . . . and an old Stellar Scribes friend, with an address of a fan in South Africa, also looking for pen pals:

Alonso Antonio Vilches Flores
Azafran No. 200 Col.
Granjas Mexico
Mexico, DF CP 08400
Mexico

Do you remember a special twin sunset? Or, "Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope"? Or, "It's too long away from me"? I'm not Luke Skywalker and I'm not on Tatooine, but I need you. I'm 20 years old, and for many years I've lived with a great universe: *Star Wars*. But it has been very hard for me. Hard because it isn't easy to get any information about *Star Wars* in Mexico. In fact, just three months ago I found out about *Classic Star Wars* and *Tales of the Jedi*. And it's hard too because I'm alone, "without an ally against the Empire." But these comics showed me there are a lot of true *Star Wars* fans . . . and you are one of them.

I'm just a boy as old as Skywalker, as alone, in a place far away from my dreams. Like Princess Leia, I need your help, loyal follower of the Force; only you, a person who has understood Lucas' message in the *Star Wars* trilogy, please, let me meet you. "This is my most desperate hour, help me Jedi Knight."

May the Force be with you.



Jeffrey Chandler
5-G Mountain View Knolls
Fishkill, NY 12524

It's unbelievable!! This whole *Star Wars* thing has gotten completely out of hand! And it's all your fault! Who could have realized that a movie could make such an impact on so many lives, for so long! And we've got you to thank for keeping it going . . .

I wrote you a letter back in issue #6 and I've been deluged with mail from fellow Jedis around the world, all looking to find someone who can share their enthusiasm! I've met a lot of new friends, and for that I wanted to thank you. Unfortunately, I couldn't respond to everyone who wrote (sorry), but all of this talk of a new movie and the reprinting of the newspaper strips brought back such great memories that I'm once again lost in a galaxy far, far away . . .

One of my newfound allies is a kid (actually 16, but when you're 26, that number sounds awfully young) from Africa! He has only recently been touched by the Force and is having a hard time finding anything collectible. I have sent him numerous care packages filled with comics, books, cards, etc. . . . but I can only do so much. I was thinking it would be great if there were a couple of Corellian pirates out there willing to part with anything they have to make this guy realize that he's *not* alone in his quest. It would be immensely appreciated:

Carlo Parks
59 St. Pauls St.
George, South Africa 6530

The flow of this book just gets better and better. If anyone has seen the strips in their original context, they'd be amazed at the wonderful editing job . . . congrats! So, plans are afoot for

a *Droids* series and a *Dark Lords of the Sith* . . . plus a sequel to *Dark Empire*! I think I just wet myself with excitement! I'm sorry I've turned your column into a "Personal" section, but I would think that was what you were trying to achieve, a place where friends could meet once a month and talk about what makes them happy, and from what I've seen, you've made a lot of people happy! Keep up the great work and I can't wait to see the Russ Manning strips in color.



Ah, Robert . . . I have your address memorized by now . . .

Robert Knaus
320 Fisher St.
Walpole, MA 02081

Issue #16 of *Classic Star Wars* was one of the best issues yet. General Dodonna's sacrifice was noble, but didn't he appear in *Dark Empire*? The Rebel's flight from Yavin is every bit as exciting as their later escape from Hoth in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Goodwin and Williamson (with Nunis and Murtaugh) have vividly captured the sense of grandeur in the Rebel and Imperial fleet movements. I could practically hear the swooping sound effects and John Williams' score (on my Walkman, as I read). And, as usual, the characterization was flawless. The one teeny thing I found wrong in an otherwise perfect issue was the term stellar flare. Isn't the correct terminology solar flare? Oh, quit complainin'! May the Force be with you, Obi-Wan Cooper, always . . .

For those of you wondering why we seemingly tend to print letters from certain "letterhacks" all the time — well, it's because they tend to do the things we editors

appreciate the most when trying to put together a stimulating and interesting letters column, as Robert has in his letter above: namely, keep your comments succinct and to the point, comment specifically, at least in part, on the latest issue at hand, don't necessarily include nothing but gushing praise for the book, and if you can't type or word-process your letter, at least write in clean, easy-to-read handwriting.

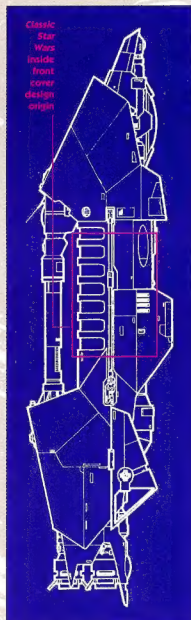
Alas, Robert, your attempt at singling out the one small criticism of *CSW* #16 has fallen off the mark: indeed, if the Rebels had been seeking an escape route through our own Solar system — named for our star, Sol — they might have indeed encountered solar flares; but in any other star system, it's just plain old stellar flares that they'll have to avoid. I guess we finally achieved the perfect issue, eh?!



Next month <"sob"> it all comes to an end . . . at least this story of *Classic Star Wars* does. The Archie Goodwin/Al Williamson epic wraps up with a special 48-page issue jam-packed with excitement, surprises — and as an added bonus, a promo card of Luke Skywalker drawn by Chris Sprouse from the Topps *Star Wars* Galaxy II card set. Also, next month, we'll tie up the remaining loose ends from *Stellar Scribes* — including the long-awaited selection of a title for the next *Classic Star Wars* series (no . . . we didn't forget; it's just proven harder than anticipated to select a title from the abundance of great suggestions!).

And just when I thought no one would correctly guess the genesis of the inside front

cover design, Thomas Wiebel of Highland, CA was the first to come up with the correct answer (along with several others immediately following receipt of Thomas' letter). Despite the surprising number of similar guesses that the design is based on a lightsaber handle, it is in fact a close-up of part of the side of a Corellian Action VI transport, a bulk freighter used by the Rebel Alliance, as depicted in West End Games' *The Star Wars Rebel Alliance Sourcebook* (see below). Way to go Thomas! And your prize . . . well, is to get this mention in *Stellar Scribes*, and our thanks for your unflinching support of *Star Wars* and *Dark Horse*!



— Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*